

Statement by Michael A. Lawson, U.S. Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Montreal; July 25, 2014

Earlier today, I presented my official credentials to ICAO President Aliu and Secretary General Benjamin. I am deeply grateful to President Obama for the trust and confidence he has shown in placing me in this important position and for the opportunity to serve my country at ICAO.

I would like to express the deepest condolences of President Obama and the American people to those who lost their lives in the MH17 crash and their families and our strong support for ICAO, and its efforts to assist and support the investigation. At times like these, the vital role of ICAO is ever more crucial, and I thank the ICAO leadership for its ongoing efforts to help uncover all the facts about this tragedy. We look forward toward working with ICAO in the coming weeks and months on ways that the international community can move forward in order to prevent such incidents from happening in the future.

As I noted to the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the United States and ICAO have enjoyed an extraordinarily close and mutually beneficial relationship from the time of the negotiations in the United States at the end of World War II that resulted in the Chicago Convention and the creation of ICAO as the specialized agency of the United Nations devoted to civil aviation. ICAO is the only forum in which global standards can be set for all aspects of international civil aviation. Whatever the new developments or challenges in the areas of civil aviation safety, security, and the environment, ICAO provides the mechanisms and the opportunity to address them effectively through the cooperation of member states.

I look forward to my work here at ICAO. As the challenge of the MH17 incident underscores, the agenda is a full one. We will move forward to make international civil aviation safer and more secure. Thank you.